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Title:

Press release from the Chief Secretary: New Unit at Glenside Hospital

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. SHARD.

New Unit at Glenside Hospital

13/4/72.

A new unit to give special treatment to mentally disturbed elderly people will be built at Glenside Hospital, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Shard, announced today.

The \$700,000 unit will replace Downey House as the diagnostic and assessment centre for these patients at Glenside.

Downey House will become part of the proposed Mineral Sciences Centre.

Sketch plans for the new unit have been completed, and the project was referred to the Public Works Standing Committee today by Executive Council.

Mr. Shard said a total care hospital for geriatric patients was planned at Glenside, and the new admission centre would be closely linked with it.

He said the new building would provide accommodation for 80 resident and day patients.

The scheme includes a reception and waiting area, administration centre, a 15 bed functional ward, a 25 bed organic ward and a day hospital for 40 patients.

The building will be a single storey structure, with three wings, one for each section, spreading from the central administration area.

Mr. Shard said an important feature of the proposed unit was that an informal domestic environment would be created in the functional ward and day hospital, and an informal 'hospital' environment in the organic wing.

"These conditions will contribute considerably to the success of the therapeutic programmes to be carried out in the unit," he said.

Tenders are expected to be called in July 1972 and the project completed by July of next year.

Completion by 1973 will enable the project to benefit from a Commonwealth Government subsidy, and will allow Downey House to be transferred to the Australian Mineral Foundation (which has offered \$60,000 to the scheme) at the earliest possible date.